

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 COME-00 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 MCE-00 /115 W
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FM AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3080
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MARTINIQUE 0639

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ETRD, FW
SUBJ: COMPETITION FOR THE CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FACILITY?

SUMMARY: REMY DE HAENEN, FORMER MAYOR OF ST. BARTHELEMY, FRENCH WEST INDIES AND LONG-TIME FREE-WHEELING ENTREPRENEUR IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN, CLAIMS TO REPRESENT A LIECHTENSTEIN INVESTMENT GROUP WITH LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM ARAB AND BLACK AFRICAN SOURCES WHICH SEEKS TO LEND MONEY TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN AMOUNTS BETWEEN 50 AND 200 MILLION DOLLARS. IF TRUE, HE WOULD HAVE MORE DEVELOPMENT MONEY TO OFFER THE CARIBBEAN THAN THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FACILITY. END SUMMARY.

1. REMY DE HAENEN, FORMER MAYOR OF ST.BARTHELEMY AND MEMBER OF THE GUADELOUPE CONSEIL GENERAL FROM ST. BARTH'S FOR THREE TERMS, TOLD CONOFF ON RECENT TRIP TO ST. BARTH'S THAT HE HAS BECOME AGENT FOR A LIECHTENSTEIN INVESTMENT GROUP WITH LARGE SUMS OF MONEY FROM ARAB AND BLACK AFRICAN SOURCES. THAT GROUP, ACCORDING TO DE HAENEN, IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN MAKING LOANS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN AMOUNTS OF FROM
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50 TO 200 MILLION DOLLARS, AND HAS COMMISSIONED DE HAENEN TO FIND LIKELY BORROWERS IN THE CARIBBEAN AND LATIN AMERICA. DE HAENEN SAYS HE PLANS TO CONTACT DOMINICAN PREMIER PATRICK JOHN WITHIN THE NEXT MONTH TO PROPOSE SUCH A LOAN.

2. DE HAENEN WAS KNOWN WIDELY--AND IGNOMINIOUSLY--AS A HIGH-

ROLLING ADVENTURER AND BUSINESSMAN IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN UNTIL HE WAS FINED OVER A BILLION FRANCS IN 1956 BY THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT FOR A CUSTOMS OFFENSE. HIS VENTURES SINCE ARE REPORTED TO BE MORE MODEST. HE FLIES HIS OWN PLANE (A TWO-SEATER) THROUGHOUT THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN PURSUING HIS BUSINESS INTERESTS, ONE OF WHICH IS TO ARRANGE FOR A (SEPARATE) LIECHTENSTEIN FIRM TO PRINT POSTAGE STAMPS FOR SMALL COUNTRIES, LARGELY FOR SALE TO PHILATELISTS. THE COUNTRY IS GIVEN TEN PERCENT OF THE ISSUE PLUS FACE VALUE FOR THE REMAINDER, WHICH IS THEN SOLD TO PHILATELISTS AT A PREMIUM. DE HAENEN CLAIMS TO HAVE ACTED AS AGENT IN SUCH A DEAL WITH THE GOVT OF TRINIDAD AND PLANS TO MAKE A SIMILAR PROPOSAL TO PATRICK JOHN.

3. DE HAENEN APPEARS INTERESTED IN AND KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT VIRTUALLY EVERY ISLAND IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN AND APPARENTLY HAS RESOURCEFUL CONTACTS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE KNEW ABOUT AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN DAVID CHRISTMAN'S PROPOSAL TO FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN GUADELOUPE TO BUY TREATED WATER FOR TRANSPORT TO THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (SEE MARTINIQUE 616), EVEN THOUGH CHRISTMAN HAD APPROACHED THOSE OFFICIALS IN CONFIDENCE ONLY DAYS BEFORE. HE INQUIRED ABOUT HESS OIL ACTIVITIES IN ST. LUCIA AND ABOUT VENEZUELAN CONSTRUCTION ON BIRD ISLAND.

4. DE HAENEN CAN HARDLY BE CALLED A RELIABLE SOURCE OF
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INFORMATION GIVEN HIS CHECKERED CAREER. (HE WAS WIDELY SUSPECTED OF ARMS SMUGGLING DURING AND IMMEDIATELY AFTER WWII AND, AS MENTIONED ABOVE, WAS FINED HEAVILY IN 1956 FOR A FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFENSE. ON THE OTHER HAND, HE REPORTEDLY SERVED ST. BARTH'S VERY WELL AS MAYOR AND GENERAL COUNSELLOR DURING THE SIXTIES AND EARLY SEVENTIES.) THE ENORMITY OF THE YARN IN QUESTION MAKES IT ALL THE MORE SUSPECT. HOWEVER, IF DE HAENEN IS TELLING THE TRUTH, HE MAY HAVE MORE DEVELOPMENT MONEY (WHATEVER THE TERMS) TO OFFER THE CARIBBEAN THAN THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED CARIBBEAN DEVELOPMENT FACILITY.
ROBINSON

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